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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Levan **Gogoberidze** (Georgia)

III. Review of the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997: section 26E, conference services

Introduction and overview

1. The General Assembly, in resolution 39/238 of 18 December 1984, approved the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination contained in its report on the work of its twenty-fourth session,[1] including the recommendation that relevant intergovernmental bodies should review the programme performance report.

2. At its 413th meeting, on 4 September 1998, the Committee on Conferences reviewed the report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996–1997: section 26E, conference services (A/53/122 and Add.1).

Discussion

3. The view was expressed that programme budget proposals for conference services should reflect, net of any potential savings through improvements in efficiency, the resources required to meet its real needs and to redress past inadequacies in carrying out the mandated tasks. The representative of the Secretariat took it that programme managers in conference services should take care in their budget planning that potential savings should not be relied upon to such an extent that programme delivery would be jeopardized if such savings failed to materialize. The view was also expressed that it was not for the Committee to instruct the Secretary-General in budgetary matters and that the report before the Committee made no mention as such to inadequacies in carrying out the mandated tasks; also, the cause of problems such as late issuance of documents lay not with conference services, but with the authors who submitted documents to conference services late.

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Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee took note of the report contained in documents A/53/122 and Add.1.

5. The Committee requested the Secretary-General, when submitting budget proposals for conference services for future bienniums, to take fully into account the task of redressing inadequacies in the provision of such services.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/39/38)